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PRESS RELEASE

First e-Career fair in the Region organized by National Internship Program "My Career"

From 2nd to 6th of November, the National Internship and Job Placement Program – "My Career", developed by USAID's Competitiveness Project, is organizing the first electronic e-Career fair in the Region at www.mycareer.com.mk. Over 50 companies and educational institutions and over 1500 students from high schools universities and vocational schools throughout Macedonia will participate at this fair.

"One of the largest benefits of an internship is to experience work assignments that you can only hear about at the University. Being offered a job after my internship was a confirmation of how important an internship is," said Iva Lozanovska, an employee of Next Sense.

One of the reasons Ohridska Banka offers a large number of internships is to form a team of young people that can provide a pool of future employees, says Slavko Sazdovski, mentor from Ohridska Banka.

For the duration of the e-Career Fair, the website www.mycareer.com.mk will offer the following services:

- 10 live chats with 10 managers from renown companies in 5 days,
- Up to date and exclusive job and internship position advertisements,
- virtual stands and promotional materiel from 40 companies,
- promotion of Universities and Vocational Schools,
- an opportunity for students and job seekers to talk to interns and colleagues that were employed as a result of their internship,
- an opportunity for students to receive feedback on their CVs and motivation letters,
- an opportunity to participate in live job interview simulations and receive feedback from experienced recruiters and HR managers, and
- an opportunity to apply for free training in crafting CVs, improving communication skills and job ethics.

The companies that will have live chats are: Seavus, Roboteka ATTE, ESA Tetovo, Next Sense, Ohridska Banka, New Media Corporation, Wakonda, McDonald's, EVN and Advert SMS. There are over 40 companies with virtual stands and 11 education institutions.

The portal www.mycareer.com.mk is available in three languages (Macedonian, Albanian and English) and open to all users. The Program was launched in February 2009 and strives to complete over 500 structured and organized internships this year, with at least half leading to permanent employment. So far there are over 2700 students and 170 companies registered at the portal and there are 400 successfully realized internships out of which 52 have turned into 52 permanent employments.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

The American people, through USAID, have invested nearly \$500 million in Macedonia since 1993. USAID is implementing projects that increase investment, create jobs, reduce corruption and improve the quality of education in Macedonia. These initiatives support Macedonia's transition to a stable democracy and its successful integration into the European Union. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>.